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Form 10-300 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

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(Type all entries - complete applicable sections) NOU. \$ 1971 1. NAME COMMON: Old Courdin House AND/OR HISTORIC: David W. Courdin Waldensian Homestead 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: ¥ 2.4 Miles southeast of Monett on blacktop road CITY OR TOWN: Section 5 - Township 25N - Range 27W STATE COUNTY: CODE CODE 009 29 Barry <u>Missouri</u> <u>65708</u> 3. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY ACCESSIBLE S OWNERSHIP STATUS TO THE PUBLIC (Check One) Z Yes: Public Public Acquisition: District Building Occupied 0 X Restricted ☐ In Process X Private ☐ Site ☐ Structure 🔀 Unoccupied Unrestricted ☐ Both ☐ Being Considered ☐ Object Preservation work ☐ No in progress C PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) ☐ Park Agricultural ☐ Government □ Comments ☐ Transportation Commercial Industrial Private Residence TOTHER (Specify) ■ Educational Military Religious House vacant Museum Entertainment ☐ Scientific S 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY Z OWNER'S NAME: TATE: Missouri Mr. A. D. Bradley ш STREET AND NUMBER ш <u>617 Broadway</u> CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE S 65708 Monett Missouri 29 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Office of Recorder of Deeds, Barry County Courthouse Barry STREET AND NUMBER: Barry County Courthouse CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE Cassville Missouri 65625 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: ENTRY NUMBER Missouri Historical Sites Catalogue FOR NPS USE 1963 DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ County ☐ Federal **▼** State ☐ Local DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Missouri State Historical Society STREET AND NUMBER: ONLY CITY OR TOWN: CODE DATE Columbia Missouri 65201 29 7th Congressional District, Hon. Durward G. Hall

House of Representatives

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. #1

DAVID W. COURDIN WALDENSIAN HOMESTEAD

OLD COURDIN HOUSE

The Waldensians, numbering approximately six thousand were persecuted and forced to leave Lyons. They scattered to all parts of Europe, but later became concentrated in secluded valleys of the Italian Alps where the group flourished in relative peace and security resisting the attempts at heretical suppression imposed on them by the Catholic church. (George B. Watts, The Waldenses in the New World, 1941, p. 5.)

Beginning in the late 1600's new persecutions were severe and continuous until February 17, 1848 when the ruler of Piedmont, Charles Albert (1831-1849) reversed "his former policy of suppression, (and) granted (the Waldensians) freedom of conscience and worship." Subsequently the Waldensians began an active missionary effort which spread to many parts of Italy and Europe. At the same time, economic conditions in the Waldensian valleys had become difficult because of overpopulation and crop failure. As a result groups of the Waldensians emigrated to the New World, first to Uruguay, and later to the United States. Although the colony in Uruguay prospered, conditions of lawlessness and frequent revolutions prompted the Reverend Jean Pierre Michelin Solomon (together with his family and later, eight other families) to come to the United States in 1875. (Watts, 1941, pp. 8,9,45-47,57.)

This group arrived in New York after journeying by boat from South America. Solomon was possibly attracted to Missouri by brochures published by the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, later the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad, which at that time had lines to Pierce City, approximately seven miles northwest of Monett. David W. Courdin and Etienne (Stephen) Courdin with three sons and five daughters were among this first group. (Watts, 1941, p. 57.) In the latter half of 1875 the group led by Solomon settled south of Plymouth Junction (now Monett) on heavily timbered land chosen by the men because of the abundance of wild game. It was also their understanding that forest land had superior fertility to prairie land. Land was purchased from the railroad company at \$4 an acre (Mrs. J. F. Mermoud, "History of Waldensians of Barry County Traced From Cottian Alps,"
Monett Times, January 15, 1957, p. 2.) The St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad donated forty acres of land for the church and cemetery site. (Watts, 1941, pp. 62-63.) These facts suggest that the settlement was due in part to a conscious effort by the railroad to colonize the area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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2.

DAVID W. COURDIN WALDENSIAN HOMESTEAD

OLD COURDIN HOUSE

South of Monett on Missouri Route 37, crossing U.S. Highway 60 and proceeding from this point approximately 1.3 miles to first crossroad. Turn east (left) to Waldensian Church (approximately % mile distant). At Waldensian Church turn north (left) % mile to un-named road to the east. Courdin Home located approximately 0.6 miles down this road on north side. Post Office designation: R. R. #2.

'UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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6.

DAVID W. COURDIN WALDENSIAN HOMESTEAD

OLD COURDIN HOUSE

Missouri State Historical Survey (state)

1969

Missouri State Park Board

P.O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Code: 29

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7.#1

DAVID W. COURDIN WALDENSIAN HOMESTEAD

OLD COURDIN HOUSE

The present roofing is galvanized, corrugated sheet iron, in poor condition. The roofline is broken at the ridge by two brick chimneys, one near the midpoint of the ridge, the other on the south gable end. The brick flues were added when the original stone flues and fireplaces on the north and south gable ends were removed. This alteration occurred when conversion was made to stove heat.

A single dormer window, not original, is centered on the east (rear) slope of the ridge roof.

Interior

On the interior the cellar and first floor are divided by stone partition walls into three rooms of approximately equal size. In the cellar the stone walls are exposed and the floor is unpaved earth. On the first floor an exterior door is located at the center of the west wall of each chamber to give access to the west porch. Each room has one window on the east wall opposite the door. Doorways connecting the rooms on the interior are centered on the stone partition walls. These room were originally finished in whitewashed plaster. In recent times the walls have been wallpapered. The doors are original with vertical boards battened together by horizontal bevel-edge crosspieces on the backside. The original hardware also survives on these interior doors.

The loft has thin wood frame partition walls dividing it in a fashion similar to the rooms below. This space is unfinished. Access between cellar, first floor and loft is from a steep stair located in the southwest corner of the building.

The site is threatened by misuse and neglect. Although the basic structure of the house is still in good condition in general, some of the wooden parts are beginning to rot. The house is presently used for general storage, and hogs are pastured in the surrounding yard.

Extant original site features in addition to the house include a useable cistern, well and vegtable cellar. The ruins of the original dairy barn and smoke house stand northwest of the house. A barn of recent date has been added to the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Number all entries)

DAVID W. COURDIN WALDENSIAN HOMESTEAD

This summary description of the physical appearance of the building is based on data included in the field report by architectural consultant, Kenneth E. Coombs, A.I.A., received June 1969. The report was contracted by the Missouri State Park Board and is filed at its central office, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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8. #2

DAVID W. COURDIN WALDENSIAN HOMESTEAD

OLD COURDIN HOUSE

The first houses in the community were built in the late summer of 1875. (Watts, 1941, p. 60) The David W. Courdin house dates dates from approximately 1876. (Barry County Recorder's Office, record books.) The early date of the Courdin house in the community is substantiated in part by the fact that its construction employed methods used in the Piedmont Valley houses and that later houses of the Waldensians in Barry County were typically built of milled lumber. (Watts, 1941, p. 61 mentions that a "skilled carpenter" Benjamin De Coq came from France with his children to join the community in 1877 and that he "built the church and many of the permanent farmhouses of the colony.")

The whitewashed stone houses, referred to as "plaster houses" by Mrs. Mermoud were constructed following methods known by the Italian Waldensians. The structures had desirable thermal qualities—their thick stone walls causing them to be cool in summer and warm in the winter, and they could be constructed relatively quickly. (Mrs. Mermoud, interview, January 19, 1970.)

David W. Courdin served among the first trustees of the new congregation. (Watts, 1941, p. 62.)

Stephen Courdin, the son of David W. Courdin, was the first mayor of Monett after the town was organized in May, 1888. (Early Barry County, 1965, p. 21 and Mrs. J. F. Mermoud, "History of Waldensians of Barry County Traced from Cottian Alps," Monett Times, January 15, 1957, p. 2.)

				(Check One)		
CONDITION	☐ Excellent	反 Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check Or	10)		(Che	ck One)
	X Altere	d	☐ Unaltered		☐ Moved	🔀 Original Site

The David W. Courdin Waldensian Homestead near Monett, Missouri, built in 1876, is a grouping of house and farm buildings. The area being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places is circumscribed by a perfect rectangle with an east-west dimension of 188 feet starting at the southwest corner of the property as shown on the attached site plan, and a north-south dimension of 450 feet starting similarly at the southwest corner of the property. The house is a rectangular, one story building with full basement and attic. It has a high pitched ridged roof oriented north and south with a shed porch along the west (front) side. The roof angle breaks at the junction of porch to house. The walls on all four sides are of natural fieldstone, random laid and whitewashed. The walls average 22 inches in thickness.

Exterior

The west (front) facade has three regularly spaced doorways accessible from the shed roof porch that extends the entire length of the west side, and like the galeries of the French colonial houses of the Mississippi River Valley, provides exterior circulation to each of the interior rooms on the first floor. The original all-wood doors have been altered by insertion of glass panes in their upper halves.

Both north and south endwalls have gables of frame construction. The north gable end is sheathed in vertical, butt-jointed side-boarding; the south end in asphalt shingles. Each gable has one window. On the north end the window is centrally located and boarded shut. On the south it is a four light, casement window centered on the east half of the gable. The north end wall also has one window at the first floor level, centered on the vertical midline of the wall. This window replaces a stone fireplace chimney which was originally incorporated into the north gable end wall. The window is a double-leafed casement type with one over one lights in each frame.

The east (rear) wall has three first floor windows exactly opposite the three doors of the west facade. These windows are wood-framed and double-hung with four over four light sash. Dimensions of these openings are 2'4" x 4'7" with a sill height of 1'8".

These windows and the doors opposite them on the west wall are original and in good condition. The reveals for these openings are splayed toward the interior of the building.

At the cellar level of the east (rear) wall there are three arched window openings exactly below the east windows of the first floor. In addition a doorway 4 feet high opens into the north cellar chamber through the east wall at a point just north of the south wall.

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1876		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education*	Political '	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	early settlement
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☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	

The David W. Courdin House is significant as the last surviving original dwelling in repairable condition, (Kenneth E. Coombs, A.I.A., Architectural Consultant Field Report, June 1969; The Joplin Globe, July 29, 1962, Section D, p. 1, cols. 1-3; and Mrs. J. F. Mermoud, interviewed by M. Patricia Holmes, staff member, Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office, January 19, 1970,) constructed as part of the only Waldensian colony in the midwestern United States. This midwest settlement was one of the few Waldensian colonies in the United States established during the nineteenth century. (George B. Watts, The Waldenses in the New World, 1941, pp. 225-229, and Mrs. J. Fred Mermoud, "History of Waldensians of Barry County Traced From Cottian Alps," Monett Times, January 15, 1957, p. 2.) In an article from the same series, published January 19, 1957, Mrs. Mermoud states that the Missouri colony"...ranks third in size according to the American Waldesian Aid Society...headquarters in New York City." (Monett Times).

The site has significance as a unique example of its architectural form and construction in the state. The thick, whitewashed stone walls, small windows and shed porch spanning the west (front) wall evince the ethnic influence of the structure's southern European builders. Dwellings similarly proportioned and constructed of the same materials were typical of the region of Northern Italy from which the Waldensians originated. (See copy photograph from William Stephen Gilly, Waldensian Researches during a Second Visit to the Vaudois of Piemont. (sic) 1831, op. p. 182.)

The Waldensians were an early Protestant group, disciples of Peter Waldo (1140?-1217). Waldo was a Catholic but he denounced the clergy and preached a doctrine of reform after he became convinced in 1173 (Watts, 1941, p. 4,) that everyone had a right to read and interpret the Bible for himself, without being subject to clerical authority over belief. (George W. Cornell, AP Religion Writer, "Waldensians Date Back to the Middle Ages," Columbia Tribune, February 7, 1958.)

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- 1. Coombs, Kenneth E., A.I.A. Architectural Consultant Field Report, received June, 1969, contracted by the Missouri State Park Board and filed at its central office, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.
- 2. Cornell, George W., AP Religion Writer. "Waldensians Date Back to Middle Ages," Columbia Tribune, (Mo.), February 7, 1958. Article reports on the speaking tour of Rev. Mr. Archille Deodato, moderator of the Waldensian Church.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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9.

DAVID W. COURDIN WALDENSIAN HOMESTEAD

OLD COURDIN HOUSE

- 3. Gilly, William Stephen. Waldensian Researches during a Second Visit to the Vaudois of Piemont. (sic) London: Printed for C.J.G. and F. Rivington, 1831.
- 4. The Joplin Globe, July 29, 1962. Article originating at
 Monett, Missouri, based on an interview with Mrs. Anne
 (Anna) Courdin, the widow of a descendant of David W.
 Courdin. Mrs. Courdin was at that time owner-resident of the
 Old Courdin House.
- 5. Matthews, Addah L. Early Barry County. North Newton, Kansas:
 Barry County Historical Society, 1965. Author drew material on the Waldensian settlement from Waldenses in the New World by Watts, and from Mrs. J. Fred Mermoud whose manuscript has been filed with the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis.
- 6. Mermoud, Mrs. J. Fred. "History of Waldensians of Barry County Traced From Cottian Alps,"Monett Times (Mo.), series of six articles, January 15-19, 1957, by member of the colony who had spent 26 years compiling data on Waldensian history.
- 7. Telephone interview by M. Patricia Holmes, staff member,
 Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office, Jan.
 19, 1970. On file at the Missouri State Park Board,
 P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City,
 Missouri 65101.
- 8. Watts, George B. The Waldenses in the New World. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1941. One of the few definitive summaries of Waldensian history based on material drawn from an extensive bibliography, including primary sources.
- 9. Barry County Recorder's Office. Books R, P, and 118.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

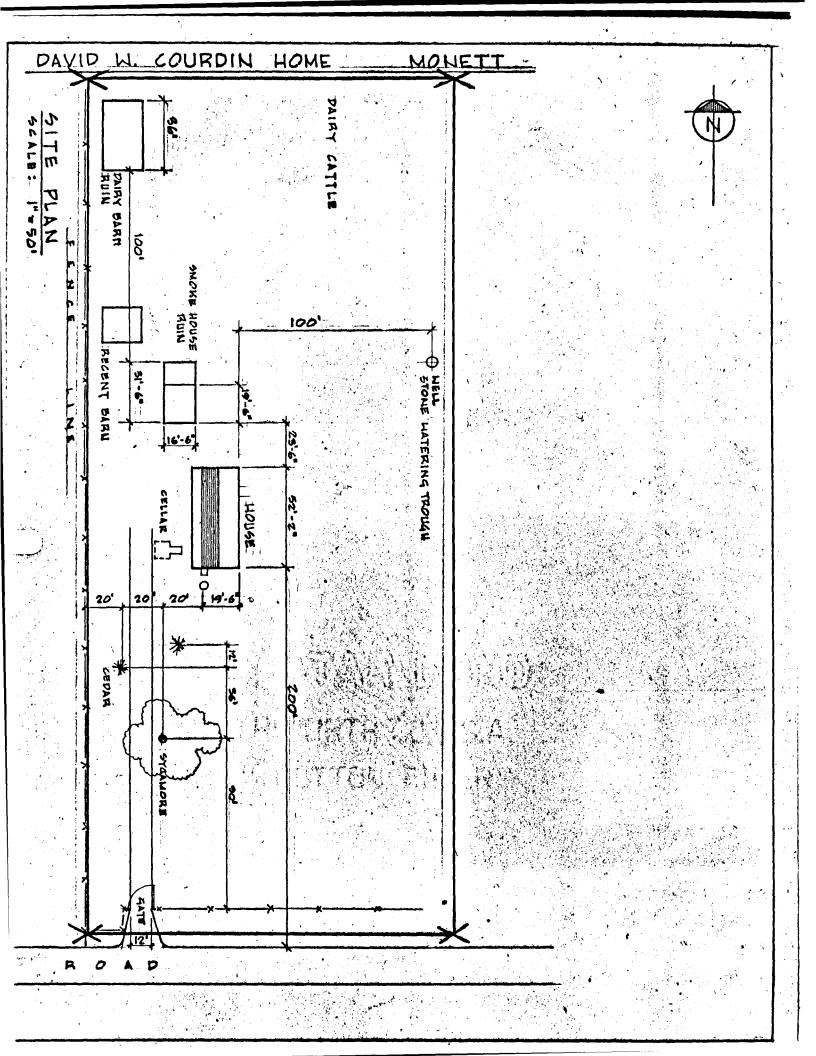
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

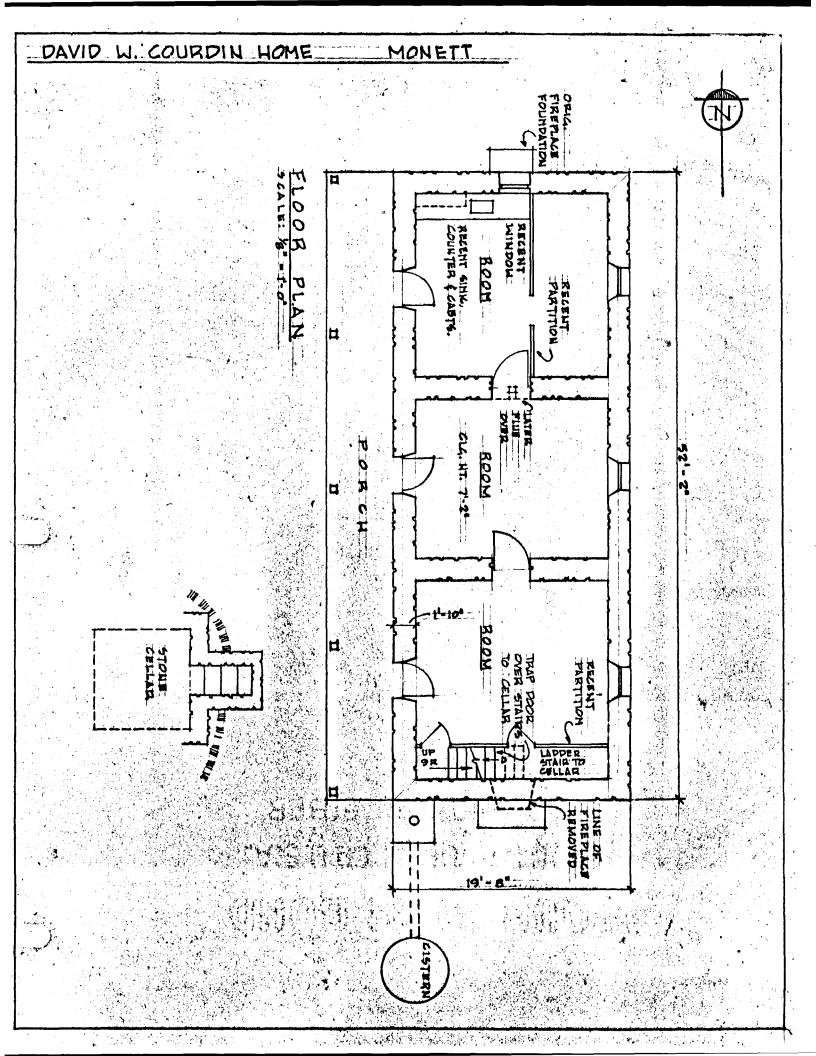
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

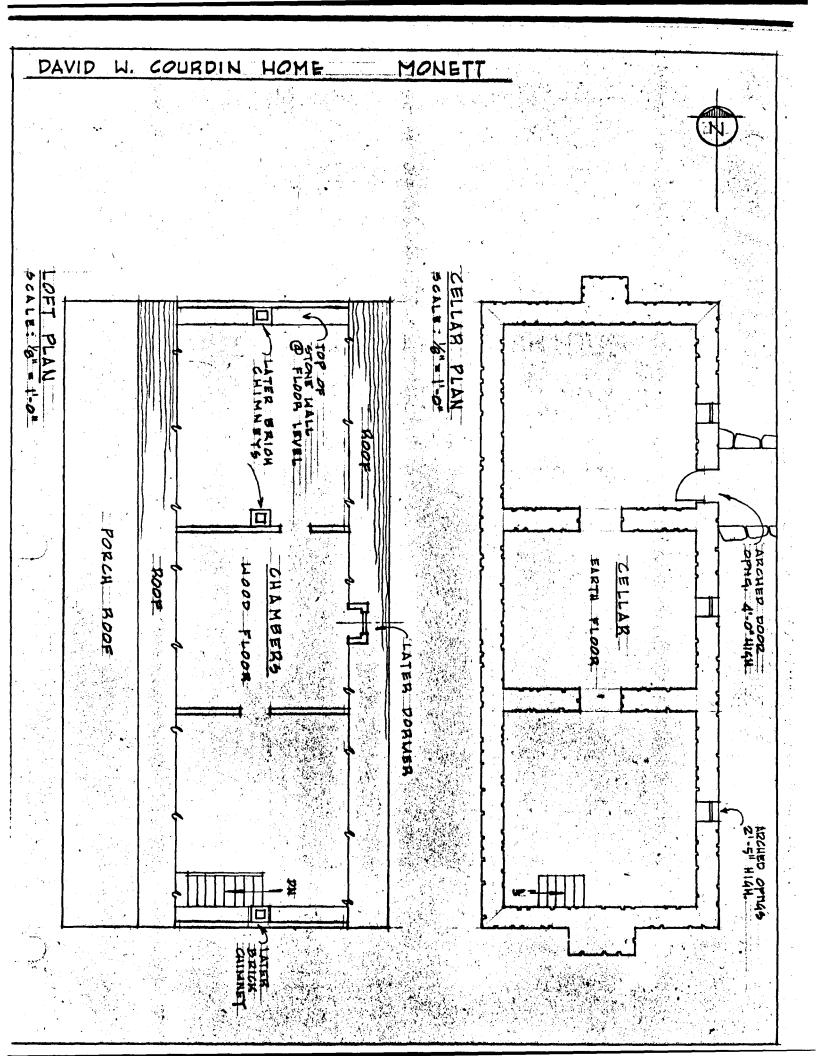
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Form 10-301 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (July 1969) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE		STATE Missouri	-	
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V.P.D. Shek

IN REPLY REPER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Courden House

REGRETTER

The Director of the National Park Service
George B. Hartzog, Jr.

is pleased to inform you that the historic property listed on the enclosed sheet has been nominated by the State Liaison Officer responsible for your State's implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, P. L. 89-665 (80 Stat. 915), as amended. It has accordingly been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for your information and convenience.

Enclosures

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NATIONAL LAUX SERVICE

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Courdin (David W.) House Barry County

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Also Notified

Hon. Stuart Symington Hon. Thomas F. Eagleton Hon. Durward G. Hall

The David W. Courdin House is significant as the last surviving original dwelling in repairable condition constructed as part of the only Waldensian colony in the midwestern United States. This midwest settlement was one of the few Waldensian colonies in the United States established during the nineteenth century.

OLD COURDIN HOUSE (DAVID W. COURDIN WALDENSIAN HOMESTEAD)

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LOCATION: 2.4 mi SE of Monett, Missouri

OWNER: ADDRESS: Mrs. I. Planchon 307 West 32nd Place, Sand Springs, Okla. 74063

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: 03-21-70

DATE SENT TO JEFF. CITY: 06-29-71

DATE SENT TO D.C.: 07-14-71

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: 07-19-71

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: 07-19-71

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: 11-05-71

DATE AWARDED CERTIFICATE (AND PRESENTOR): 03-16-73 Dr. B.B. Lightfoot - AC member

DATE FILE REVIEWED:



